



IPW

Docket No.: KOH-0204
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Hiroshi USUKI

Application No.: 10/784,306

Confirmation No.: 8301

Filed: February 24, 2004

Art Unit: 3722

For: CONTROLLED ATMOSPHERE CUTTING
METHOD USING OXYGEN ENRICHMENT
AND CUTTING TOOL

Examiner: D. W. Howell

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated September 26, 2006,
Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-4, drawn to a method of cutting, with
traverse.

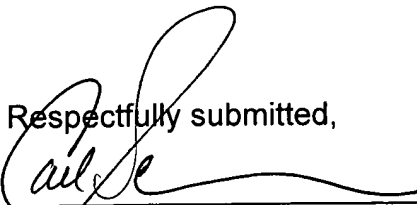
It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search of the subject matter of any one group of claims would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP 803 which is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims that are distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added).

It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply to the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and the duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Date: October 18, 2006

By:

Respectfully submitted,



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